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Why does Washington State need medicine take-back?

About one-third of medicines sold go unused each year or ~33 million containers of medicines in WA.

Public Safety - reduce the amount of drugs available for misuse
and

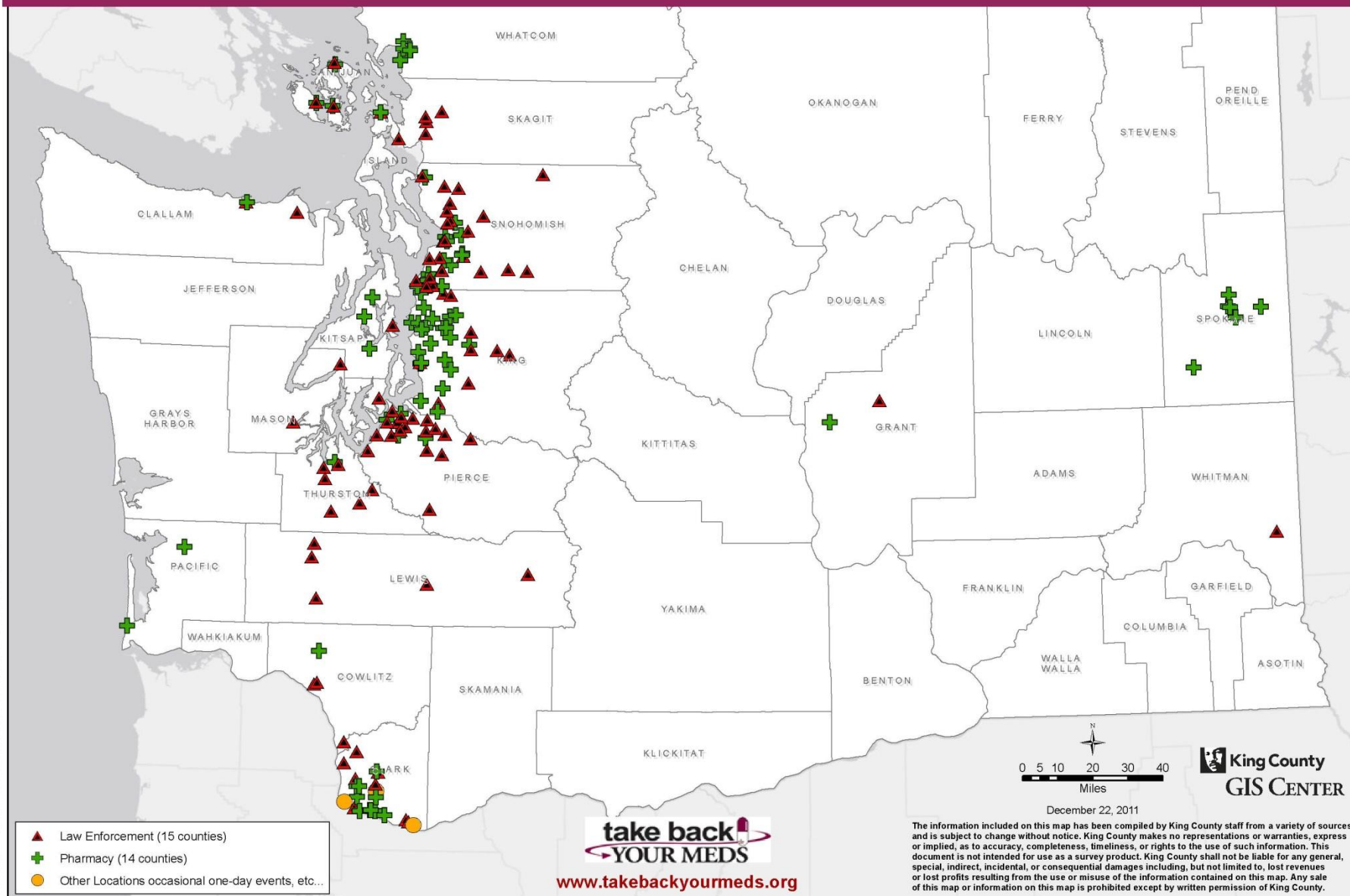
Environmental Protection - keep waste medicines out of our waterways and water supplies.



Medicine Take-Back Locations in Washington State (December, 2011)

Sheriffs, police, local governments and pharmacies in 17 counties are operating take-back programs but are struggling for funding.

DEA temporary take-back day events offered for one-day twice a year are ending. **We need medicine take-back in all 39 counties.**



Barriers to adequate statewide medicine take-back opportunities in WA

- **FEDERAL RESTRICTION** – only law enforcement authorized to collect controlled substances. ✓ **Federal Law changed**
- **FUNDING** – burden of financing and organizing programs currently on local governments, law enforcement, pharmacies.
Many existing programs struggling for funds.
Most communities cannot afford.

WA Secure Medicine Take-Back Legislation



Require drug companies selling medicines in/into Washington to pay for and provide a secure, convenient take-back system.

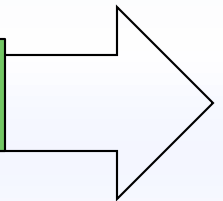
For all prescription and OTC medicines from residential sources.

2011/2012 bills: SSB 5234 / HB 1370

2008

2009 / 2010

2011 / 2012



Things we've learned...

- Strong opposition from well-organized, powerful industry and lobbyists – all saying “NO” right now
- Need to educate & re-educate legislators to counter opposition arguments.
- Need a diverse, active coalition of supporters
- Need media coverage & public awareness
- Policymakers generally not informed about proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste (or HHW in general)
- Understanding of the problem has grown greatly.



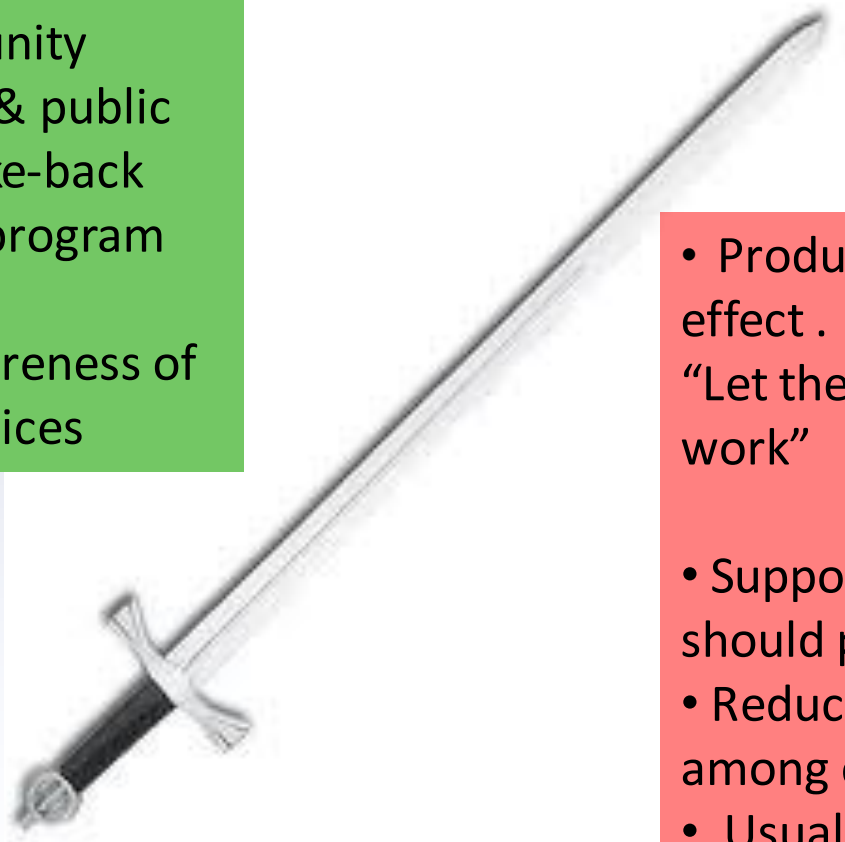
Next Steps for Take Back Your Meds

The Problem Isn't Solved Yet...

- Promote April 28th DEA-coordinated Take-Back Day
- Engage in DEA rule-making process for take-back of controlled drugs. Draft rule anticipated summer 2012.
- Discuss, strategize, evaluate options for future actions

To consider about take-back programs funded by local govts & law enforcement

- Protect the community
- Demonstrate need & public willingness to use take-back
- Show feasibility of program
- Generate data
- Increase public awareness of proper disposal practices



• Produce a “Problem Solved!” effect .
“Let the voluntary programs work”

- Supports expectation that Govt should provide the service.
- Reduces sense of urgency among electeds
- Usually NOT robust programs due to inadequate funding – lack of promotion, too few drop sites, etc...

Learn More!

- Find out more at www.TakeBackYourMeds.org.
- Like Us on Facebook – **Takebackyourmeds.**
- Follow us on Twitter – **@takebackurmeds.**

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PUT PILLS IN THEIR PLACE



Why is it the producer's responsibility for medicine take-back?

- Long-term, sustainable funding needed – linked to product sales.
- Drug companies get greatest revenue return from drugs sales. 77% of prescription cost
- Drug companies can incorporate take-back into cost of doing business.
Local gov'ts and sheriffs can't!
- Pharmaceutical companies provide drug take-back in other countries.

